

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace claims 3, 4, 6, and 8-10 as follows:

3. (Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the crystal growth discontinuation layer has a thickness no greater than 20 nm.

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4. (Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the crystal growth discontinuation layer is formed of at least one material selected from the group consisting of Ti, Ta, permalloy, and an alloy of these materials.

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6. (Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is formed of a CoCr alloy.

8. (Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1, further comprising a protective layer and a lubricant layer sequentially on the perpendicular magnetic recording layer.

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9. (Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording medium has a double-layer structure with including a soft magnetic layer between the substrate and the perpendicular orientation promoting underlayer.

perpendicular magnetic recording layer.

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13. (New) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 2, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is formed of a CoCr alloy.

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2 15. (New) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 2, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording medium has a double-layer structure with including a soft